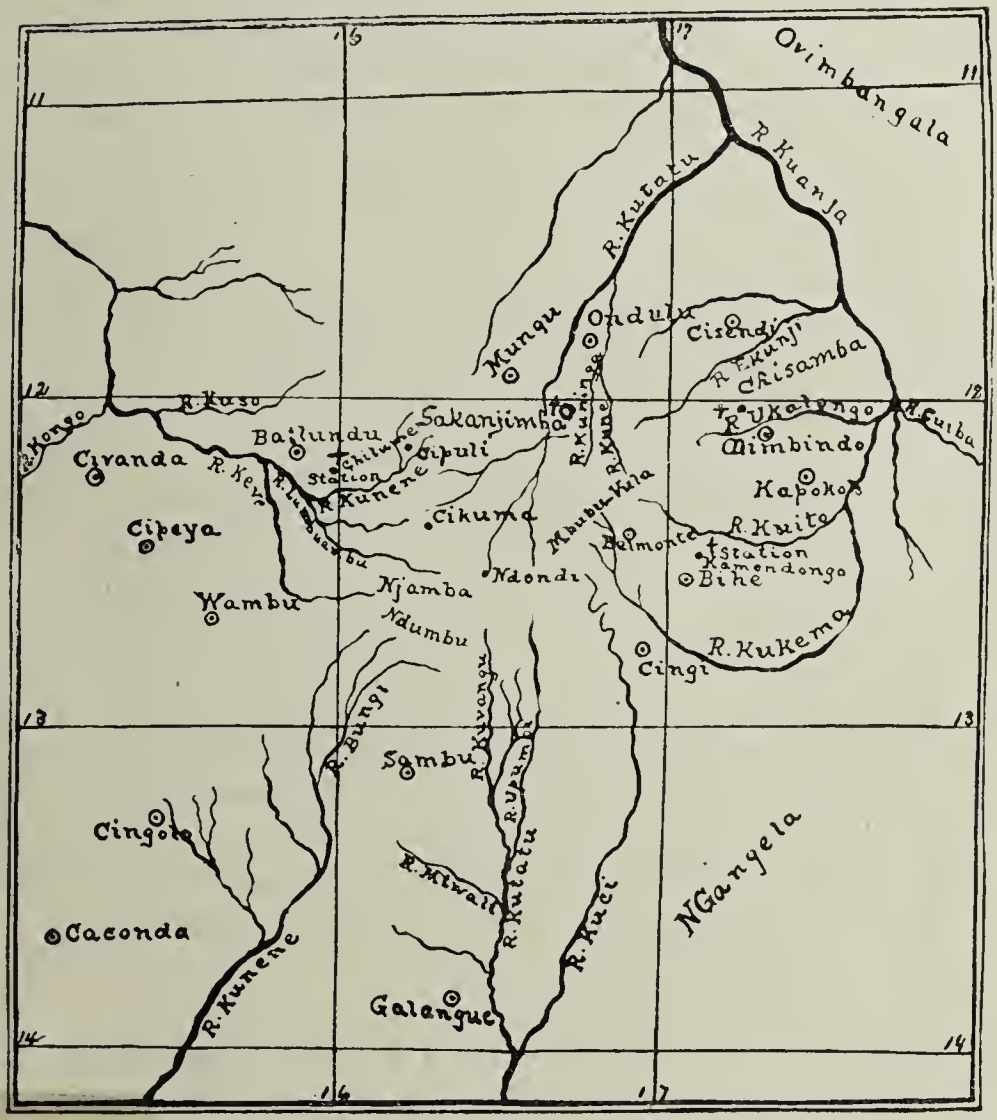
MISS EMMA C. REDICK, OCHILESO, AFRICA

Missionary of the Congregational Christian Endeavor Societies of Kansas



WEST CENTRAL AFRICAN MISSION

The Christian Endeavorers of the State of Kansas have supported Miss Redick as a missionary in West Central Africa since the spring of the year 1900.

There is no mission field that presents more points of interest to the student of missions than that of Africa. Where fifty years ago the few white people in the whole of Southern Africa could easily be counted, today there are in the West Central Congregational Mission alone four Christian churches, two of which are entirely self-supporting, nineteen preaching places of which the sum of the congregations average over two thousand people, besides twenty-three common schools, with eighteen hundred pupils.

The immediate station with which Miss Redick has been connected since 1896, located at Sakanjimba, was in April of last year (1904), after careful consideration, moved to Ochileso The cause of this move was the changing conditions of the region about Sakanjimba. Since the Boer war a government station has been located there and a large number of Portuguese traders have settled in the neighborhood. This made the location less suitable for missionary work. In the winter of 1903 there was also much suffering from scarcity of food, many natives having to leave the mission and return to their villages.

OCHILESO.

After thorough investigation the neighborhood of Ochileso was chosen for the new mission station and

from all reports seems unusually well adapted for a missionary center. The region itself is not only beautiful but remarkably healthful. It is situated among the mountains, with streams flowing down their sides, making here and there falls of unusual beauty, with deep pools left by the action of the water, and most helpful of all, there are a large number of hot springs, the water of which is always hot and filled with medicinal virtues. Singularly, in one place the waters of a hot lake and cold stream meet but do not mingle.

The soil is fertile and consequently food plentiful. Already the boys have worked the fields, and corn, "intumbo," potatoes, squashes and strawberries have been raised. Fish are plentiful, and many mushrooms grow in the woods. There is good timber and an abundance of iron.

The location is central to a large district in which there has been no missionary and the chief and people of which seem friendly. The people are not traders and are consequently at home most of the time. There is every reason to believe that in time the place with its opportunities may become an industrial center.

At the present time the buildings are in process of construction. The hope of the station is to build without asking assistance from the Board. The missionaries as well as the people who moved with them are enthusiastic over the new location. Of course it will take some little time to establish the church,

schools and classes. The pupils who moved with the missionaries numbered about 120, some of the young men being natives of Ochileso.

Miss Redick is in every way well fitted for her work among these people. After graduating from the High school at Mansfield, Ohio, near which town she was born, Miss Redick taught five years in Tougaloo University, Mississippi. Her work here was most satisfactory and she gained not only the respect but the love of her co-workers and pupils. Her Sunday school, prayer meeting, Bible class and women's class work here was in reality the beginning of her work among the colored people and aroused a great interest on her part in their behalf; so that after her father's death, her mother having previously died, she resolved to devote herself to this noble cause and entered Oberlin to be better fitted to offer herself as a worker in the missionary field. From her first arrival in Kamundongo (the first Christian village of West Central Africa) she has thrown herself with enthusiasm into the work. Eagerly learning the language, working early and late, devoting herself to their needs, she has drawn to

herself the love of these young people in that far-off southern country.

She commenced her life at Ochileso last fall, when she went there with missionaries and people from Kamundongo, Bailundu and Ocelonda, to attend the Woman's Annual Conference. From the start she was enthusiastic over the locality. Tents had been erected for the visitors, Miss Redick occupying a hut until her permanent mud home should be finished. The meetings of the conference were most interesting and helpful as always. One of the natives, Margaretta, of Bailundu, took charge of the opening meeting, reading Gal. 5:16-23, the especial topic being, "To flee from those things that hinder." The women who were endeavoring to follow Christ, counseling energetic efforts to be more truthful, less envious, kindlier and more loving towards their children.

A little later Miss Redick writes of the program of her work in the new place. In the morning, school for the native children, teaching them psalms, hymns, kindergarten songs and games. At half-past one the boys' school, already numbering about fifty-six, and at half-past three that of the girls, "about forty with a few old women." Some evenings of the week, Miss Redick teaches the more advanced boys and native teachers, and on Sunday has charge of the Sunday school, and the boys' meeting, which has become a Christian Endeavor Society.

MISS REDICK'S FIRST HOME IN OCHILESO.

The school house is made of grass and sticks, with white cloth tacked to the windows. The doors are of grass, and are used only when it is windy or rainy.

Miss Redick, in a letter dated March 16, 1905, writes: "The Christian work, too, is very promising. The villagers think this is a wonderful place. Curiosity brings many during the week to see what is going on, but at the Sunday services we recognize many who now come regularly and seem interested in the 'Words.' Our Christian young men very often go to the villages, two or three hours away, on Saturday, hold services, and return Sunday morning with a number of villagers from these places. Our station is constantly increasing in numbers, and more want to come than we can accommodate now. They may come in the dry season, when the fields of our women have yielded their first crop of corn. A number of girls are coming, too, from the villages where we have had schools. * * * I have enjoyed my work more this year than ever before, for it has been interesting to watch the progress of new pupils who came to us direct from their villages. Some of our little folks, only six years old, have learned to read this year. As they learn to read and do things they become more obedient and happy, too. There is a marked difference between our station children and the children from the villages near us. These come usually Sunday morning, and sometimes stay for Sunday school in the afternoon. But these

village children are learning, too, many things, as much, perhaps, from the children here as from the Sunday services."

From another letter: "There are open doors all around us, for the people want to have teachers and learn how to be Christians as they see young Christian men from time to time who are so different from themselves, not idle and quarrelsome, but occupied with the more important things and living in peace among themselves."

Is this not a glorious work that you young people of Kansas have undertaken, maintaining Miss Redick in this wonderful life?

Christ came "preaching the gospel of the kingdom." At the close of His ministry on earth, He said to His disciples, "Ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judæa, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

Miss Redick is a witness unto Christ in Western Africa; you Christian Endeavorers in sending Miss Redick to her field of work are witnesses unto Him—witnesses of Christ. May you be faithful and constant in your trust, working to establish Christ's kingdom on earth.

Woman's Board of Missions of the Interior,
Room 523, 40 Dearborn St., Chicago, Ill.

Miss Emma C. Redick

Miss Emma C. Redick, whose home was at Mansfield, Ohio, was prepared for her work in Africa by serving as a teacher under the American Missionary Association. After the death of her remaining parent, she felt that home ties were so broken that she might go to Africa. When she went out, she expected to take charge of schools at Ochileso, but, as the stations were not sufficiently manned (woman-anned?) to permit her to remain at the one station, she has had to help out in all the other stations. This meant being taken from her home and work, and the plans she was eager

to see carried out, to fill a vacancy for six weeks or six months, wherever the need was the sorest.

Miss Redick has always been cheerful and lovely under these trying circumstances, and has won the hearts of the natives in every station where she has substituted. Indeed, it sometimes seems that there has been a virtue in this necessity, for it has been the means of widening Miss Redick's influence far more than would have been possible otherwise.

This past year (1913-14) she has been taking Mrs. Webster's place at Bailundo, while the latter has been in America on furlough; and the present plan is to have her remain at Bailundo as permanent teacher, subject, of course, to the changes above referred to, and to which all our missionaries in this part of Africa are subject.

We should surely rejoice that, to quote a fellow missionary, she is a very successful teacher, "a nice person to have around," and greatly beloved by the natives, for just such qualities are needed if our work among the children and young folks is to have a permanent and far-reaching influence.